



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents
Indiana School Principals

FROM: Caterina Cregor Blitzer, Director of International Education

DATE: January 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Expand your language offerings: 2009 Chinese Teacher Recruitment Trip to Taiwan and Teacher Exchange Opportunities

The Department of Education's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement with the Ministry of Education, Republic of China (Taiwan) provides Indiana school districts the opportunity to hire highly qualified native Chinese speakers to teach Mandarin Chinese language and culture. The Ministry extends an invitation for an expense paid trip to Taiwan, April 3 – 12, 2009, to superintendents (or principals) who plan to hire a Visiting Teacher from Taiwan. The MOU also provides Indiana experienced or beginning teachers an opportunity to teach English elementary or middle schools in Taiwan. Both programs are described below and additional information is available by calling Caterina Blitzer at (317) 234-2375 or emailing cblitzer@doe.in.gov. We appreciate your consideration and cooperation in distributing this information.

2009 Chinese Teacher Recruitment Trip and Visiting Teacher from Taiwan

Interested superintendents, or principals, are asked to provide information on teaching assignment and related salary and benefits. Deadline for submission of proposal to hire is February 10, 2009. The Visiting Teachers make a one to three-year commitment to teach in Indiana, provided that the school district agrees to rehire them. Participating districts employ these teachers in accordance with state regulations and policies and pay them according to their experience and certification level. J-1 work visas are issued by the DOE. Visiting Teachers are responsible for their own housing arrangements and their immediate expenses. Schools are asked to assist Visiting Teachers by securing a temporary host family for the initial days following the teacher's arrival in Indiana. An orientation and training program is provided by DOE in collaboration with hosting schools.

The April weeklong recruitment trip includes interviews with qualified candidates, visits to k-12 schools and university language centers and cultural resources. Tentative dates are April 3 – 12, 2009. The Ministry covers expenses for roundtrip airfare and accommodations for one week.

Teaching opportunities in Taiwan Program

Experienced and beginning teachers interested in travel and workabroad are encouraged to apply. For

more information on the program and the application requirements, please visit <http://www.doe.in.gov/internationaleducation/Taiwan/teaching-in-taiwan.html>. Note that the **application deadline is Monday, January 30, 2009.**

Indiana was the first state to send American teachers to Taiwan as visiting professional educators and has a reputation of providing a pool of high quality candidates. The experiences for our Indiana teachers and their Taiwanese host communities have been very positive. Participating teachers teach English and work with the Taiwanese educators to develop curriculum, prepare lesson plans and teaching materials. Returning teachers value this transformational international experience and the benefits it brings to their teaching in Indiana as they help our students prepare for their roles in a global society. The exchange helps children in both countries gain a greater knowledge of different cultures, history, language, interests and lifestyles.